



St Josephat: Born in the Ukraine, of Orthodox parents, St. Josephat (1580-1623) became a catholic and joined the monks of St. Basil. He became a priest, and was elected the Bishop of Polock. He worked very hard for the unity of the Church. He was martyred at the hands of his enemies.

First Reading: (Wis 13:1-9) All men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists, nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying heed to his works; but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air, or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water, or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world. If through delight in the beauty of these things men assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them. And if men were amazed at their power and working, let them perceive from them how much more powerful is he who formed them. For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator. Yet these men are little to be blamed, for perhaps they go astray while seeking God and desiring to find him. For as they live among his works they keep searching, and they trust in what they see, because the things that are seen are beautiful. Yet again, not even they are to be excused; for if they had the power to know so much that they could investigate the world, how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things?

Ps 18:2-5

R. / The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

Gospel: (Lk 17:26-37) Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot -- they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom fire and sulphur rained from heaven and destroyed them all -- so will it be on the day when the Son of man is revealed. On that day, let him who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away; and likewise let him who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other left." And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

REFLECTION

Look beyond the temporal and what is fleeting. Jesus depicts the (second) coming of the 'Son of man' and the hour of our reckoning as something unexpected and sudden. Man has a tendency to have short vision and be concerned with what is immediate and around. This makes him forget the purpose of life and the ultimate goal. So the word of God constantly reminds us that the things of this world is passing and fleeting. Amidst all this a person is supposed to realize his/her real nature, purpose and goal. Lack of this vision leads to preoccupation with worldly and temporal realities making us almost blind to the eternal nature of our existence. Are we short-sighted and temporal-oriented? Can we look beyond the world and see the eternal goal of our life?